

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/784,112 | TAKEO, HIDEYA | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Shefali D. Patel | 2624 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 6/19/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 15-24.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

BINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks on pages 6-8, filed March 27, 2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8 and 15-24 are allowed and re-numbered from 1-18.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention defines an anomalous shadow detection system in claims 1 and 15. The claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art by the manner in which the detection means detects the suspected anomalous shadow. The claimed combination allows for improving a system for detecting anomalous shadow.

This type of system is conventional in the art. However, the prior art of record fails to teach anomalous shadow detecting means for detecting a suspected anomalous shadow from image data descriptive of an inputted image according to a prescribed detection process, and image output means for outputting information including at least information identifying the detected suspected anomalous shadow, wherein the image output means further outputs types and values of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow in a visually recognizable manner together with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, wherein each of said one or more standard parameters is a parameter used for distinguishing the suspected anomalous shadow from a normal shadow, and the anomalous shadow detecting means detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a malignant tumor is high. These elements in combination with all of the other elements of the claims are not taught or fairly suggested in the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-24 are allowed for the same reasons.

Art Unit: 2624

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shefali D. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm (First Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sdp

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Shefali D Patel
Examiner
Art Unit 2624